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LAWN MAINTENANCE CALENDAR - PENINSULA AREA
2003-2004 Researched and Recommended Turf-Type Tall Fescue Varieties
(Cool Season Grasses)
Fescue Lawns

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
August 15 – September 15	FERTILIZE. Obtain a soil test every 3 or 4 years and use the recommendations in the most recent test report to determine the N-P-K rates for your lawn; e.g., 25-3-7 or 16-4-8. Apply one pound of <u>actual</u> nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. EXAMPLES: 4 lbs. of a 25-3-7 per 1000 sq. ft. 6.25 lbs of a 16-4-8 per 1000 sq. ft.
September 15 – October 15	THATCH. Fescue lawns generally do not require thatching but when overseeding is required, thatching enables the seed to settle to the soil more effectively. <u>A follow-up mowing</u> at a cutting height of 1 ¾ - 2 inches is desirable to increase the amount of light reaching the base of the plants, which stimulates new tiller development and seed germination. OVERSEED. Use 4 lbs. turf type tall fescue per 1000 sq. ft. Many lawns do not need overseeding each year. <u>Allow new grass time to grow and receive 2-3 cuttings before making further fertilizer applications.</u> CUTTING HEIGHT: 2 to 3 inches. Remove no more than 1/3 of the grass blades. Cut only when the lawn is dry. WATER. Deeply every 7-10 days in the absence of rain. Water lawn so that 1 inch of water is applied slowly enough to penetrate to a depth of 4 to 6 inches.

2003-2004 Recommended List of Turf Type Tall Fescues
61 Varieties – arranged alphabetically/quality of turf dependent on environment

(Some varieties are not available locally)

Apache II, Arid 3, Barerra, Barlexus, Barrington, Bingo, Bonsai 2000, Bravo, Chapel Hill, Coyote, Crewcut II, Crossfire II, Duster, Dynasty, Empress, Endeavor, Falcon II, Finelawn Petite, Genesis, Gleneagle, Good-en, Grande, Houndog 5, Jaguar 3, Laramie, Leprechaun, Lion, Masterpiece, Millennium, Mustang II, Mustang 3, Olympic Gold, Onyx, Pedestal, Picasso, Pixie E+, Plantation, Rebel Exeda, Rebel 2000, Rebel Jr, Rebel Sentry, Red Coat, Rembrandt, Renegade, Reserve, Shenandoah, Shenandoah II, Southern Choice, SR 8300, SR 8600, Stetson, Tarheel, Titan 2, Tulsa, Tuscany, TF 66, Virtue, Watchdog, Wolfpack, WPEZE, and Wyatt

October 1 – October 31	FERTILIZE. Apply a fertilizer in sufficient amounts to provide 1 pound of <u>actual</u> nitrogen N. EXAMPLE: 4 lbs. of a 25-3-7 per 1000 sq. ft. <u>Allow at least 30 days from the first application of fertilizer until the second. As stated above allow growing time for new grass before fertilizing.</u> Thus, if overseeding is required, the first application of fertilizer should be applied in mid-August to allow 2-3 mowings prior to October application of fertilizer.
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October 15 – November 15	WINTER WEED CONTROL. New grass should be mowed at least twice prior to herbicide treatment. Important to control chickweed, German moss, henbit, dandelion, buttercup, and many other annuals. Use combination of 2, 4-D and dicamba or mecoprop (MCPP). For general applications, use a hose end applicator or pressurized sprayer. Otherwise, spot spraying is more economical and safer for the environment. Do not use dicamba under the driplines of tender hardwoods (e.g., Dogwoods and Maples).
November 15 – December 15	FERTILIZE. Apply 1 lb. <u>actual</u> nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.
February 15 – March 15	PRE-EMERGENT CRABGRASS CONTROL. Use Pendimethalin, Benefin (Balan), Dithiopyr(Dimension), or DCPA(Dacthal). Avoid Siduron (Tupersan, Trey). Make the first application when forsythia is in the first week of bloom. The second application is product dependent; read and follow the label carefully.
February 15 – March 15	OVERSEEDING. * <i>Only if absolutely necessary</i> *. Not necessary every year. If desired, seed 4 lbs. turf type tall fescue per 1000 sq. ft. CAUTION: If you use a pre-emergence crabgrass killer, it will prevent the germination of seed applied in the spring.
March 1 – May 1	FERTILIZER. None. Use of fertilizer at this time over stimulates top growth which lessens root reserves making plants less hardy for summer stress conditions ahead. WEED CONTROL. When mid-day temperatures reach 60 degrees Fahrenheit, apply the combination of 2, 4-D and dicamba or mecoprop (MCPP) to further control winter annual weeds, and to control summer annual weeds such as lespedeza and plantains. DEEP WATERING every 7-10 days in the absence of rain. Avoid frequent shallow watering. Water in early morning. Night watering encourages fungal development.
May 25 – June 15	FERTILIZE. Not needed if fertilizer was applied in the fall. If you did not fertilize in the fall then limit fertilization to ½ lb. <u>actual</u> nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. CUTTING HEIGHT: Minimum 3 inches. This keeps the soil surface cool, especially during hot dry weather. DEEP WATERING. Important. No night watering. WEED CONTROL. If necessary. DISEASE ALERT. Observe turf frequently for disease outbreak. Act quickly with recommended fungicides; or apply fungicides to prevent initial attack. Call Extension Office for recommendations.
July 1	NO FERTILIZER. Honor the summer dormant period of cool season grasses. DEEP WATERING. If needed. No night watering. Early morning is the best time. CUTTING HEIGHT: 3 to 4 inches. DISEASE ALERT. Monitor. Act quickly.

Note: All the above are based on the assumption that soil test report recommendations are being followed, using a predominately quick-release nitrogen fertilizer. Refer to publication 430-011 for other fertilizer options.

Helpful publications available from the Extension Office or at the website www.ext.vt.edu/resources/

Publication No.	426-609	Selecting Landscape Plants – Ground Covers
	430-009	Lawn Establishment In Virginia
	N/A	Liming – The Why's and How To's
	427-045	Lawn Weed Control
	430-011	Lawn Fertilization in Virginia
	425-125	Soil Test Box Kit (Extension Office ONLY)



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